

# NEWS RELEASE

Pacific Northwest Region - Colville National Forest  
765 S. Main Street, Colville, WA 99114, [www.fs.usda.gov/colville](http://www.fs.usda.gov/colville)

Contact: Franklin Pemberton, 509.684.7177

October 7, 2015

## *Portion of Kings and Skookum Lakes Area Emergency Closures Lifted Today*

**Newport, WA –** (October 7, 2015) A portion of the temporary emergency closure issued for the Tower Fire northeast of Newport, WA. has been lifted today. Effective October 7, 2015 the area south of Browns Lake, including the Skookum Lakes and Kings Lake is now open to public access (see attached map).

Browns Lake will remain closed to public access, due to the potential for fire related hazards that pose a threat to public safety.

While the area closure has been lifted in the south, the burned area to the north and east that includes the eastern/upper portion of Cee Cee Ah Creek and Mill Creek Roads remain closed to public access due to unstable road conditions and the risk of falling burned snags along the roadway. There is also a closure in place to the east in Idaho that is administered by the Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

Trails and roads leading into the interior of burned areas will remain closed to public access through the winter to allow time for winter snow to fully extinguish the fires and bring down any additional loose trees damaged by wildfire. Prior to venturing into the woods for hunting or other recreational activities this fall, forest visitors are strongly encouraged to view maps of existing area closures and the roads and trails that lead into them to ensure they are not unknowingly venturing into a closed area. Maps and specific descriptions of the closed areas can be viewed by visiting your local Forest Service office, and online at the Colville National Forest website.

For more information, please contact the Newport Ranger Station at (509) 447-7300.

**-END-**

*The mission of the US Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Recreational activities on our lands contribute \$14.5 billion annually to the U.S. economy. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.*



for the greatest good